IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached 6 sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2, 8, 9, 11, 14A, and 14B. These sheets, which include Figs. 2, 8, 9, 11, 14A, and 14B, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 8, 9, 11, 14A, and 14B.

In accordance with the Office Action, the drawings no longer contain reference signs not in the specification, and contain all the reference signs made in the specification as amended above, and thus the drawings comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84.

REMARKS

Applicants submit herewith replacement sheets of the drawing sheets that bear Figs. 2, 8, 9, 11, 14A, and 14B. The drawings have been changed to add reference numeral 199 to Fig. 2 and to eliminate the *S* prefix before the flow-chart reference numerals in Figs. 8, 9, 11, 14A, and 14B. This addresses the Examiner's objections to the former's absence and the latter's presence.

The specification amendments eliminate the item 13a reference to which the Examiner objected, and they add reference numerals 506, 514, and 608, to whose absence the Examiner also objected. Also, Applicants have added an abstract in response to the Examiner's objection.

To define their contribution to the art better, Applicants have canceled the previous claims and added new claims 50–64, which are therefore all the claims that remain after the amendment.

And Applicants have revised the title so that it is now "Printer Driver Including Supply-Ordering Capability." This removes the basis for the Examiner's objection to the title.

The Examiner rejected all previous claims under one or more of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112. Whatever the merits of those rejections may have been, Applicants have eliminated the bases therefor by canceling those claims.

In particular, the bases for the rejections under §§ 102 and 103 based on U.S. Patents. Nos. 6,113,208 to Benjamin et al. and 6,327,045 to Teng et al. do not apply to the newly submitted claims. Those claims define a printer driver that includes an "activation

module" that a user can graphically activate "to cause a modem to generate a communications link with a remote computer" so as, for example, to order ink. In the Benjamin et al. patent the printer driver is merely a conventional printer driver comprising operating instructions that have been loaded into the memory of the host computer 10 and enable that host computer to generate instructions for operating a printer 1. (See col. 3's lines 9-10, which refer to "a memory media cassette 12 which includes operating program data for control of inkjet printer 1.")

Quite separately from a conventional printer driver within the host computer's memory, Benjamin et al. provide a memory chip on an ink cartridge arranged to determine whether the edition number of the host computer 10's installed printer driver matches a latest edition number and to cause a display to be generated on a display screen 44 if it does not. (See col. 3, line 50 – col. 4, line 4.) Optionally, the memory chip can cause the host computer to connect automatically to a manufacturer's remote website. (See col. 4 lines 7-11). In another embodiment, the memory chip 20 causes the ink-level monitoring and, when ink levels are low, generation of a display in which a user can order more ink by clicking on" a re-order button. (See col. 4, lines 26-40.)

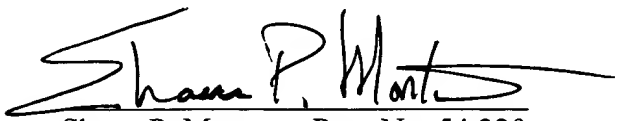
In short, whereas Benjamin et al.'s printer software performs the conventional printer-driver task of generating control instructions for a printer, nothing in Benjamin et al.'s patent suggests providing a printer driver that is arranged to generate control signals not only for a printer but also for a modem through which a remote computer is thereby accessed; for the latter function, Benjamin et al. require a separate memory chip in the ink cartridge. So Benjamin et al.'s printer driver is entirely conventional; it does not provide the

above-quoted feature, which all claims require. And Teng et al. do not suggest adding such a feature.

Nor does any of the prior art provide the feature that claim 55 defines. Lines 26-40 of Benjamin et al.'s col. 4 describes monitoring ink levels and providing an "order supplies" prompt when ink or toner levels are low. In contrast, the invention defined in claim 55 provides a more-flexible system for ordering supplies. Instead providing the prompt only in response to low ink levels, Applicants have appreciated that individual users will differ as to when they wish to order a consumable; for example, some users may wish to order supplies after having replaced a latest ink or toner cartridge. In the case of such users, a user interface will be required that enables users to obtain further consumables when detected levels of ink are high rather than low. By providing an ordering option that is available independently of the detected ink level, Applicants have provided a system that is adaptable to all user habits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections and objections and allow all claims that remain in the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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